

H O L T C H A M B E R O F T R A D E

(www.holtchamber.org)

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2011 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Gresham's School	714621
	Martin Sanders (Treasurer)	Larking Gowen	712017
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Len Casey	Guided Media	768156
	Joshua Dyball	Josh.biz	862610
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), Martin Sanders (Treasurer), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Zoë Ford, Lindsay Furniss, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Jim Pallister, Mary Pembleton, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe, Lara Williamson.

APOLOGIES: Duncan Baker, Sue Catt, Sandra Taylor-Meeds.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

Jim Pallister from Hayes and Storr was welcomed to the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Total income for the period 1 February 2011 to 31st October 2011 stands at £3,635.28 with total expenditure to date of £1,164.20 giving a current year surplus of £2,471.08. This did not include this year's donation to the Christmas Lights Fund. It was agreed that this would be discussed later in the meeting. It had not been possible to move a planter to the War Memorial site so a new planter had been purchased at a cost of approximately £90.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The Chamber is pleased to welcome Mountain Warehouse and Moochi Modo as new members. Nana & Nabooboo have also indicated their wish to join and Pecalillos, and Silver & Salts are considering membership. Budgens' new extension will be opening on 15th November 2011.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: A solution to the problem of excessive guano from pigeons in the local alleyways is being actively pursued.

It was agreed at the budget meeting that the precept would remain at its present level.

Items on the forthcoming agenda for 8th November, 2011 will include progressing the 'Holt Vision'. It is hoped to have fully-completed documentation by the second week in December 2011. It is important that the community is involved in plans on how the town develops.

Sadly Holt Town was only a runner-up in the Community Awards (beaten by Hunstanton). The presentation is on 23rd November in Norwich.

The programme for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event is expanding and will include a two-day road closure in Church Street with a Craft Fayre followed by a 'Royal Tea' on Saturday 2nd June at 4 pm. People will be asked to bring tea pots, cake and sandwiches and tea will be made in the Parish Hall. Celebrations over the weekend will also involve a hog roast, and a celebratory service in St Andrew's Church on the Sunday.

The Council have received many letters expressing concern over the Thornage Road Car Park. Visitors are complaining that they cannot park and even the hearse is finding that access into the cemetery is being blocked by people parking on Cley Road.

The town council is striving for additional Section 106 benefits. The re-alignment of the road at the junction of Kelling Road and Cromer Road, which had taken place in the past in order to solve the problems experienced by motorists turning right, has in fact not alleviated the problem but means there is now insufficient room for the construction of a mini roundabout.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Before discussion on the Christmas Lights Esme Bagnall-Oakeley showed those present a new DVD entitled 'The Town Built on a Hill'. It is largely about 'old' Holt but includes a section on

'The Christmas Lights' and other modern introductions. It is priced at £6.99 and will probably be available from the Holt Tourist Office. To date only £8,000 has been collected in funding for the 'lights evening'. The lights alone will cost £13,000 and entertainments an additional £3,500. As major sponsors, Byfords, and Bakers & Larners have also made direct payments to C & O. Fundraising has been difficult and some traders have complained that they are being hassled. There are still insufficient stewards for the road closures. Without these stewards the 'lights evening' cannot proceed! Joshua gave out various publicity materials relating to the 'lights evening' including a copy of the Tony Hall cartoon to be auctioned, the advertisement for the lantern-making and the flyer, which will subsequently appear in The Chronicle. It was agreed at this point that the Chamber would make a donation of £1,200 which might be topped up at a later date to help cover any shortfall.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: It was reported that the latest delay is being caused as Graham Chapman and Norfolk County Council are locked in negotiations over access to the new car park. NCC are asking for £50,000 to access the thin strip of disused railway which would provide the pedestrian walkway for motorists from the car park to the town. The car park would not be viable without this access. They also want 8% of the profits made by the car park.

Graham has collected 30 witness statements from people who have walked down the railway line including four farmers who have driven farm vehicles over the land. He intended to send these statements to NCC prior to applying for the land to be declared a public footpath. Di Dann pointed out that establishing land as a public footpath was a long procedure unlikely to take less than eighteen months with a possibility of a much longer delay. After extensive discussion by those present the following suggestions were made.

- 1) A public footpath designation should be considered by Graham Chapman though it might be counter-productive due to the inevitable delay involved.
- 2) John Lintott would speak to North Norfolk News (despite some reservations by two members) to explain the frustrations of local traders who felt they were being disadvantaged by the shortage of parking spaces, and the exorbitant financial demands being made by NCC for its progression.
- 3) Direct contact would be made (preferably through the town council) with the Chairman of Norfolk County Council to see if a solution could be negotiated and a letter would be sent from the Chamber to indicate our concerns.

It was also suggested that signatures should be collected for another petition in support of the car park to show that the support of local traders and residents had not abated. Lindsay Furniss indicated a willingness to initiate this.

John would feed these suggestions back to Graham Chapman. In the meantime Graham had sent out tender documents to potential contractors.

BRININGHAM BENEFICE MAGAZINE AND AMAZON:

Although there had been no direct reply to our letter to the Bishop, David Makinson had been contacted by representatives of the Benefice to say that they felt they owed him an apology as they had not considered the effect their arrangement would have on local traders. Although the link to Amazon is still on their website David has been assured that it will be taken off.

HOLT SCOUTS CENTENARY 2012: In 2012 Holt will be celebrating 100 years of scouting and will host the St Georges Day parade on 22nd April. Over 700 people are expected with approximately 500 young people marching through the town to the Chapel at Gresham's School where they will renew their scout promise.

'GLAD ABOUT THE GLAVEN' EVENT - Saturday, 21st July, 2012: Friends of Holt Hall will be holding a planning meeting for this event in the stables at Holt Hall on Thursday, 17th November at 3.30 pm. Anyone interested in the event is invited to attend. 'Glad about the Glaven' will celebrate the local area and encourage increased awareness and appreciation of the environment. If you are a business and want to bring produce to sell there, a charge of 15% of your profits made on the day will be levied, which will go towards the Friends of Holt Hall. For further details of the event or the planning meeting please contact Lara Williamson on 01263 713456 or by email on lara@holtareapartnership.org.uk.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Christmas Lights tombola – if anyone has a suitable prize to donate, please could you take it in to Smith & Pinching. Thank you. **Planters** – Di Dann offered to re-plant the new planter by the War Memorial once it was in place. Roots and Shoots are about to start the general autumn planting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place in Byfords Wine Bar (nibbles available) on Wednesday, 7th December 2011 at 6 pm.